

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated December 29, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document was received.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 21, 2001.

With regard to the substance of the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Gauronski et al. (U.S Patent No. 5,206,735; “Gauronski”).

The present invention relates to transfer of images over a network. In a conventional system, the image read-out speed of an image is provided at a constant rate. However, the transfer speed of the read image to a different device, via a network, may differ depending on the device. If there is a mismatch between the read-out speed of the image and the transfer speed of the read image, loss of the read image data may occur. Alternatively, the data can be stored completely prior to the transfer over the network. However, this results in a long wait time for image display, for example.

Applicant’s invention obviates the above-mentioned deficiencies. Referring to Fig. 1, for example, the reading apparatus 10 includes a reading unit and a buffer memory 2. The buffer

memory sequentially stores image data at the time of reading the image data, while sequentially outputting the image data from the buffer memory.

The Examiner contends that Gauronski teaches each feature of independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is not supportable for at least the following reasons.

First, claim 1 describes a reading apparatus and a display apparatus connected by a network. The Examiner relies on the combined elements of 6 and 7 in Gauronski as comprising the reading apparatus, but then cites a sub-component of the reading apparatus (Fig. 1, element 7, sub-element 52) as comprising the display apparatus. In this regard, the display apparatus is not connected to the reading apparatus 6,7 via a network, since it forms a component thereof according to the Examiner's analysis.

Second, the Examiner's reliance on the memory 56 as teaching a buffer does not meet the claim requirements. Claim 1 describes the sequential storage of image data at the time of reading while sequentially outputting the image data from the buffer. There is no inherent requirement that the memory 56 operate in the manner recited in claim 1. For example, the memory can store all the data first and then subsequently output image data to the display. In this regard, Gauronski would include known deficiencies of conventional systems.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable for all the above reasons.

Applicant adds claims 2-8 to capture additional scope of the invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No. 09/989,161

Attorney Docket No.: Q66561

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

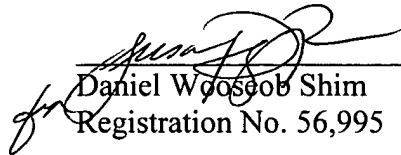
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